

What is claimed is:

1. In combination:

a fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

- 5                   a main body defining a flow opening and an open interior and  
                  having an oval shape in lateral cross section;  
                  an oval-shaped radial flange;  
                  an oval-shaped interior shelf defining a flow opening and being  
                  positioned on an incline in said open interior;  
10                  a closing cap assembled into said main body; and  
                  a movable valve ball positioned on said interior shelf; and

a fluid filter cartridge received by said fluid filter centerpost assembly comprising:

- a filtering media;  
                  a closed endcap assembled to one end of said filtering media, said  
15                  closed endcap including a blocking pin;  
                  an open endcap assembled to another end of said filtering media;  
                  and  
                  an oval-shaped seal received by said open endcap and being  
20                  positioned around said main body and resting on said radial flange.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said main body is a unitary, molded plastic structure.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein said interior shelf defines a track for  
25                  guiding the movement of said valve ball.